



**STRYNØ**  
FOR ALL ~ TOGETHER

Smack dinghy from Strynø



Photo: Andreas Mørck Nielsen



From Rudkøbing, the ferry sails several times a day to Strynø (travel time about 30 min). The island has been awarded as Denmark's Island of the Year for 2022. The name Strynø is known from the 13th century as a derivation of "s(t)reu", which means 'flowing' in Germanic. The meaning of the name is therefore 'the water flows around'. The ø (island) was added later.

Find inspiration for more experiences and places to eat and stay at [govisitlangeland.com/strynoe](https://govisitlangeland.com/strynoe)

Text: VisitLangeland & Lokalhistorisk Arkiv, Strynø 2024



**Friluftsrådet**

Støttet med Udlodningsmidler til Friluftsliv



**GEOPARK**  
DET SYDFYNSKE ØHAV



Photo: Andreas Bastiansen

## Island history for all ~ together

**1 Strynø Harbour** is full of history from the days when smack dinghies were used for transport. Strynø's former owner, Tranekær Castle, built the road to the ferry in 1866. Before the harbour became a regular port in 1912, it was possible to hoist a flag in the harbour to board the Rudkøbing-Marstal ferry or to buy a seat on the mail ferry, which was cheaper in calm weather when passengers had to help propel the ferry. Since then, the port has been expanded several times, most recently in 2013.

**2 Øhavets Smakke- og Naturcenter, Strynø Brovej 12**  
The smack dinghy used to be the main source of transport in the archipelago and is characterised by their square sails. In the exhibition you can learn more about the importance of the dinghy to Strynø and the history of the island. The centre was expanded in 2007 and now also includes an exhibition about the island's nature, the shallow waters around Strynø and a wide range of water activities, including sailing with smack dinghies.

**3 Strynø Mølle, Møllevejen 30** The original Dutch mill from 1832 is the oldest preserved windmill in the archipelago. The mill was built by the millwright Mads Jørgensen from Ærø, who had a contract with the county of Tranekær Castle and thus obtained the necessary permission from the King. Due to its location in the archipelago, the mill also served farmers from the neighbouring islands, who sailed their grain to Strynø. In the winter, the farmers drove their grain over the ice, even from Birkholm, 5 kilometres away. The location right next to the sea also meant that the mill was flooded during several storm surge. After the storm of 1904, it was decided to move the mill yard 200 metres inland, where it still remains today (Møllevejen 28). **The mill quay** is the crossing point for Strynø Kalv. Mail and goods for Strynø Kalv are stored in the shed on the posts, safe from high tide. The grey-green, strongly-scented beach wormwood grows here, which can be used to make spiced schnapps.

**4 Strynø Kalv** (private) rises 2.9 m above sea level and covers 46 hectares. The word 'Kalv' denotes a smaller part next to a larger one - meaning 'The small island at Strynø'. There are three farms, all situated in the centre of the island for wind protection. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Strynø Kalv had extensive cattle breeding and production on the level with the main island of Strynø. The island got electric light from its own power station a few years before Strynø. But the changing needs of agriculture for transport and goods made living conditions on the small isolated island difficult, and in 1969 the last permanent residents left Strynø Kalv.

**5 The ferry landing at Nørre stænge** is still visible. This is where the Jensen family from Nørrevej 14, the first family on the island to have a television, had a ferry crossing to Vaarø (Tåsinge). When the water froze in winter, the journey was made on foot or by vehicle. Branches were placed to indicate the direction and the route was changed regularly to avoid the ice breaking.

**6 Vogterholm** is an 8-hectare uninhabited island consisting mainly of shallow marine land where loosened clay, sand and gravel have been carried by coastal currents to calmer waters where the material has settled to form the island. Older moraine deposits from the last ice age form the highest point (2 m) in the centre of the island. Southwest of the island, sand dunes form towards the neighbouring island of Bondeholm.

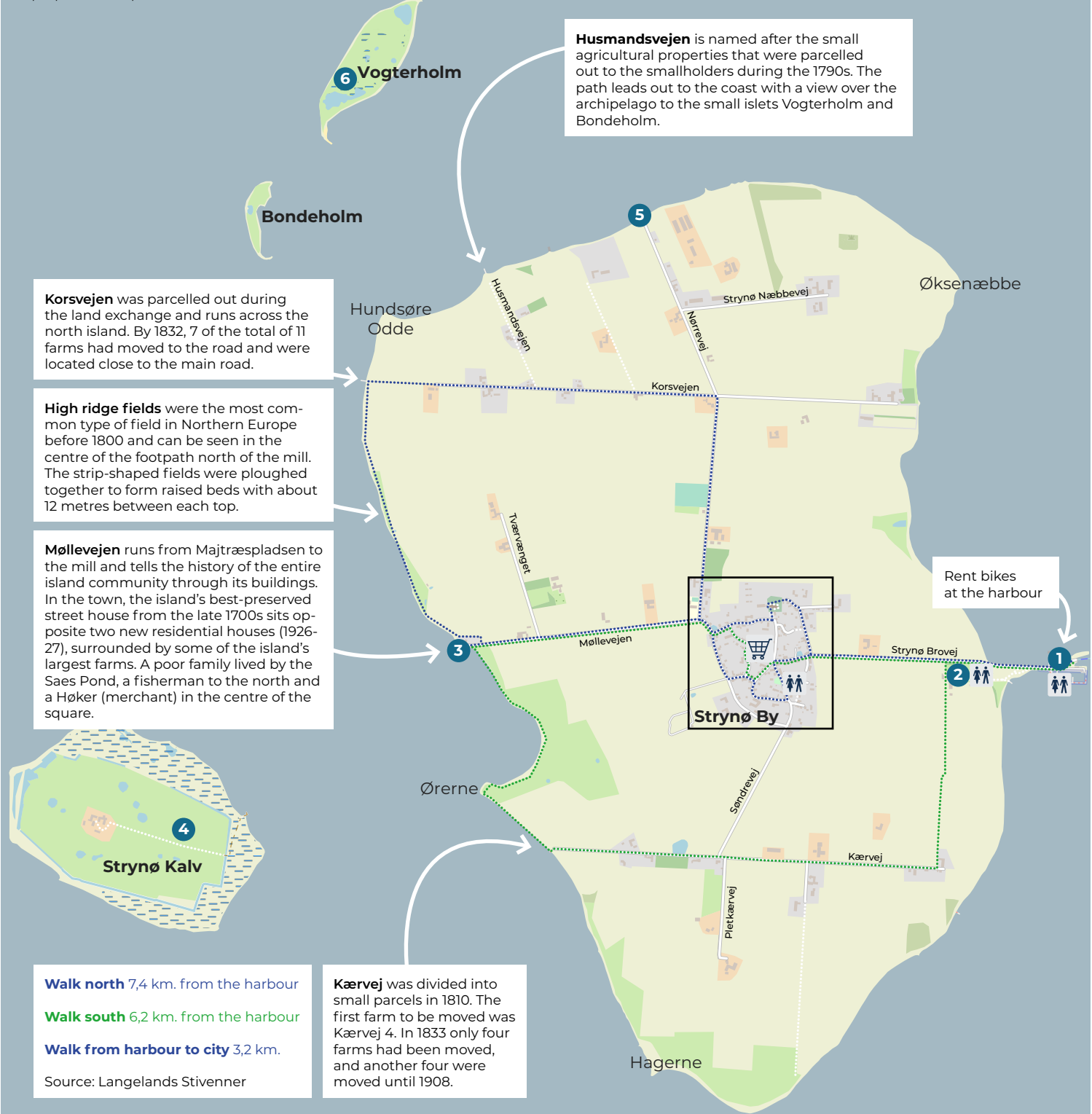
### 3 Strynø Mill



Photo: Andreas Mørck Nielsen

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Map: OpenStreetMap



### The history of Strynø

Strynø and Strynø Kalv are among the most fascinating and unique cultural environments in South Fyn Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark. After the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago, Strynø was a large continuous land area with surrounding islands and islets, and Strynø was then a wooded hilltop. When the rest of the ice melted, the sea level rose 12 metres and Strynø became the island it is today. The remains of a Stone Age settlement can be seen on the seabed about 200 metres from Strynø harbour in calm weather.

In the Middle Ages (1000-1536) the social structure developed with agriculture and food being sold to neighbouring islands and illegally across the border to Germany.

In 1906, 787 people lived on the island, making Strynø the second most densely populated island in Denmark. It was only surpassed by Amager. On Strynø Kalv alone, about 40 people lived on the island's three farms.

### Strynø nature



At [govisitlangeland.com/strynoe](https://govisitlangeland.com/strynoe) you can learn more about the flora and fauna on Strynø. For example, you can watch videos about eelgrass and saltwort, or learn more about the birds that live in the archipelago.

**Harbour seals** have good living conditions around Strynø because it is easy for them to hunt in the shallow sea water. On land the seals mate, give birth and rest.

In late summer, large flocks of moulting **mute swans** lie in the shallow water around Strynø Kalv. From Strynø you can see the swans on the horizon in clear weather, like a white line across the water. Piles of swan feathers can be seen along the north shore of Strynø, depending on the wind direction.

At [www.govisitlangeland.com/area](https://www.govisitlangeland.com/area) you can explore the villages of Langeland and find more information about Strynø.

**Husmandsvejen** is named after the small agricultural properties that were parcelled out to the smallholders during the 1790s. The path leads out to the coast with a view over the archipelago to the small islets Vogterholm and Bondeholm.

**Korsvejen** was parcelled out during the land exchange and runs across the north island. By 1832, 7 of the total of 11 farms had moved to the road and were located close to the main road.

**High ridge fields** were the most common type of field in Northern Europe before 1800 and can be seen in the centre of the footpath north of the mill. The strip-shaped fields were ploughed together to form raised beds with about 12 metres between each top.

**Møllevejen** runs from Majtræspladsen to the mill and tells the history of the entire island community through its buildings. In the town, the island's best-preserved street house from the late 1700s sits opposite two new residential houses (1926-27), surrounded by some of the island's largest farms. A poor family lived by the Saes Pond, a fisherman to the north and a Høker (merchant) in the centre of the square.

**Walk north 7,4 km. from the harbour**

**Walk south 6,2 km. from the harbour**

**Walk from harbour to city 3,2 km.**

Source: Langelands Stivenner

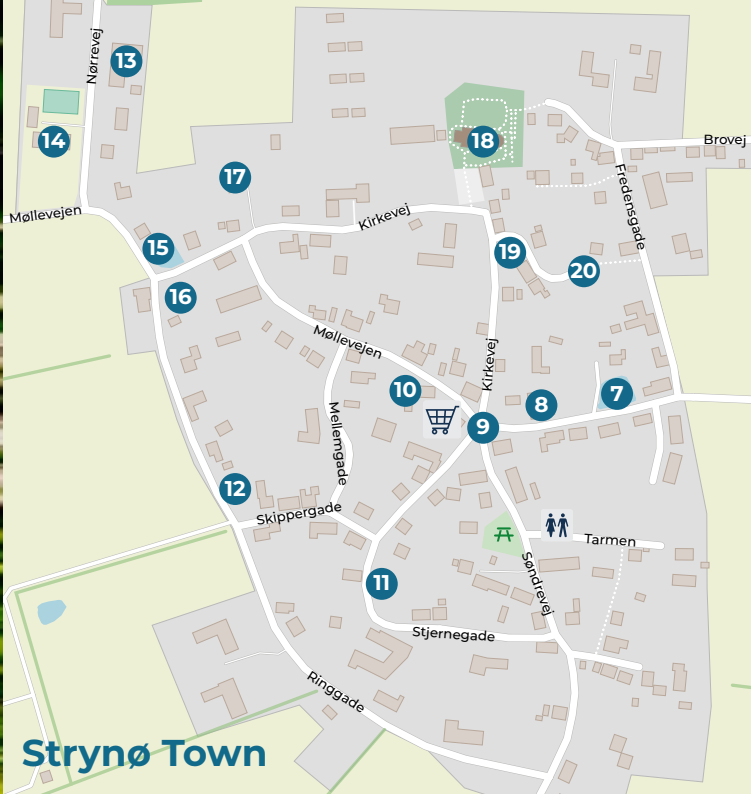
**Kærvej** was divided into small parcels in 1810. The first farm to be moved was Kærvej 4. In 1833 only four farms had been moved, and another four were moved until 1908.

Rent bikes at the harbour





Foto: Mette Johnsen



Strynø Town



Photo: Malene Tsvai

**7 The Post Pond at Brovejen/Damstræde** (front page) was originally a watering place for cattle. Now it has been invaded by green frogs, hundreds of which sit with their snouts above the water, watching the passers-by. The pond is also home to large and small newts. All amphibians in Denmark are unconditionally preserved. Behind the pond is one of P. Bager's characteristic little houses.

**8 Brovejen 1 – Strynø Brugsforening** After the resettlement in 1884, the site was empty until 1931 when Strynø Cooperative Association built the existing property with a shop and distributor's residence. The house has been a private residence since 1963.

**9 The May Tree Square - the city's central square** It is one of the few places in Denmark where the May Tree still is raised. The tradition dates back to ancient times and originates from "Riding Summer into Town", a celebration of the sowing of the fields. It was originally held on Walpurgis Night (30 April), the same night as the witches' meeting at Bloksbjerg. Brooms and the like had to be locked up and young people went out to pick flowers and green branches for the May tree. It was important to be in good standing with the higher powers and to hope for a good harvest. The fertility ceremony is still an important event on Strynø. The May Tree celebration is held with great festivities, the tree decorated with three flower wreaths and is erected, songs are sung, flags are hoisted and a May Day speech is given.

**10 Skattekisten Children's Centre at Møllevejen 3b** with nursery, kindergarten and after-school care in a large natural surrounding with fruit trees. Access to the playground outside the opening hours of the centre.



photo: Malene Tsvai

**11 Stjernegade 11 – The P. Bager houses** are Strynø's many small sailor's houses, built in 1860-80 by Peder Bager, a newcomer from Ærø. Peder worked as a baker in the morning and a bricklayer in the afternoon and built about 12 houses in the town. The sailors' houses were built to a quality that had never been seen before: they were quite square, with four rooms, tiled and hipped roofs. They were typically built with a small annex to store firewood and a small toilet. The P. Bager house at number 11 has two tall chimneys and the characteristic transverse annex.

**12 Ringgade 11** is one of Strynø's beautiful old well-kept half-timbered houses that is well worth a detour. The house was built in 1866 and used to be a farm with land outside the town. Christian Peder Christensen, a fisherman who also dugged up and sold sand, lived in the house from 1904-63.

**13 Strynø dairy, Nørrevej 6** opened in 1912, replacing the island's first dairy. Strynø got a dairy later than the rest of Denmark, due to the fact that farmland on the island has always been limited. Therefore the farms focused on growing crops with only a small amount on animals. Many of the farms on the island were not moved during the relocation (1784-1830), simply because it took up land to build new roads. It wasn't until 60 years after the relocation that the island's first dairy was built.

**14 Strynø School and Culture Centre, Nørrevej 1** is the island's meeting place for young and old, with communal meals, movie nights, New Year's Eve celebrations and a wide range of events for all ~ together. The preserved school was built in 1905 and renovated in 2014 with support from Realdania. It is a school for grades 0-4.



Photo: Ann-Britt Nørgaard

Møllevejen



Photo: Malene Tsvai

**15 Saes Pond** was once a watering place for cattle. Carriages were driven into the pond when they needed to be cleaned up. To prevent the animals from getting stuck, the bottom was paved. By 2020 the pond was almost completely dry and the wildlife threatened, the pond was cleaned up and today snakes, frogs and newts are back. If catching the animals, remember that all the pond animals are protected and must be handled carefully and released.

**16 The old power station, Møllevejen 17** was built in 1925, and in its first year its diesel engine produced 3,940 kWh to cover the island's electricity needs. Today, an average family of two adults and two children uses around 4,500 kWh of electricity per year. In 1971, Langeland Electricity Supply laid an alternating current cable to the island and the power station on Strynø was closed.

**17 Villa Vera, Kirkevej 24** was built in 1915 by master bricklayer Anton Heide, partly to house his family and partly as a testament to the excellence of bricklaying, with dormers, gabled roof, hipped roof, porch (with balustrade) and outbuildings. The house is privately owned and is only visible from the road.

**18 Strynø Church, Kirkevej 16** from 1869 can accommodate far more than the 215 people who live on Strynø today. The church was designed by Ove Petersen and the famous architect Vilhelm Dahlerup (1836-1907), who also designed a large part of Copenhagen's expansion into a metropolis. Dahlerup designed the Royal Theatre, Queen Louise Bridge, the Glyptotek and the Pantomime Theatre in The Tivoli Gardens. Unlike all the other houses on the island, Strynø Church did not belong to Count Ahlefeldt of Tranekær Castle on Langeland. It belonged to Baron Lehn of Hvidkilde Castle near Svendborg. It is said that during a card game between the two, Ahlefeldt gambled the church and apparently lost, and the church became Hvidkilde's.

**The vicarage** to the west of the church is a fine 12-part brick building with a pitched roof and five chimneys.

**The old school** by the church (Kirkevej 14) was built in 1822. The last section at the northern end, which goes through the cemetery wall and is located inside the cemetery, was added in 1862. This was the island's school until 1882.

**19 The tree of life, Kirkevej 8** is another sailor's house built by P. Bager (see 11). All of Peder's houses had the tree of life as a distinctive feature of the window decoration on the doors. Some of the houses have since had their doors replaced, but here you can see a particularly well-preserved example of the window decoration.

**20 The Love Path** (Kærlighedsstien) was built because it had become difficult to get around. The town had grown in the 1700s and small paths were created to connect the streets of the town. The path became the place where newly married couples went for a walk and where bridal couples went after the wedding ceremony.

**The little underground Joste boys** are legendary characters from Strynø who lived under the Joste hill. The boys were all over Strynø and treated people well if they were treated well themselves. At that time it was common for pregnant women to get a blessing from the priest to prevent their newborn from conflict with the Joste boys. During the storm tide of 1872, Joste Hill disappeared. The last time the boys were seen was the year before, when they sailed to Langeland in a kneading trough.



Photo: Andreas Mørck Nielsen